



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Acting Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

MAY 11 2015

RE: Certified Home Health Agencies -
2015 Hotline Rates for Pediatric Patients

Dear Administrator:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the publication of your revised, non-episodic January 1, 2015 Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA) Medicaid rates, pursuant to Part 86-1 of the Commissioner's Administrative Rules and Regulations. These rates will be used to reimburse claims for patients under 18 years of age, and for patients served by a pilot program which provides services to a special needs population of medically complex and fragile children, adolescents and young disabled adults. All other CHHA services are reimbursed on the basis of 60-day episodes of care beginning May 1, 2012.

Copies of the revised Medicaid rate computation sheets for the period beginning January 1, 2015 are now available on the Health Commerce System (HCS) website and the rates have been transmitted to the Department's eMedNY system for payment processing.

The January 1, 2015 rate computation sheets may contain one or more of the following adjustments:

Hotline

A revision to the rates has been made to reflect acceptable "Hotline" items properly submitted during the appropriate time frame. As a result of providers filing revised cost reports during the "Hotline" period, both the statewide Administrative and General (A&G) cap and the peer group ceilings for each of the service rates have been recalculated.

Trend Factor

The rates effective January 1, 2015 reflect the application of a 0.0% roll factor adjustment. Both the 2014 and 2015 trend factor components have been reduced to 0% in accordance with the adopted New York State budgets.

Worker Recruitment and Retention Adjustment

Chapter 82 of the Laws of 2002 added subdivision 8 to Section 3614 of the Public Health Law to provide payment to CHHAs for purposes of improving recruitment and retention of non-supervisory home care services workers or any worker with direct patient care responsibility. These rates include an adjustment for worker recruitment and retention for each CHHA which has submitted to the Department of Health a signed certification statement attesting that the funds received will be utilized solely for the purpose of recruiting and retaining non-supervisory home care service workers or any worker with direct patient care responsibility. For those agencies that returned the signed attestation, the 2015 rates are increased by three percent (3%) for each service.

Recruitment, Training and Retention Adjustment

In accordance with PHL Section 3614.9, the Department is authorized to adjust Medicaid rates of payment for certified home health agencies, long term home health care programs, AIDS home care programs, hospice programs, and managed long term care programs to provide funding for purposes of improving recruitment, training and retention (RT&R) of home health aides or other personnel with direct patient care responsibility. The adjustments are based on an aggregate amount of up to \$100,000,000 for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

In accordance with PHL Section 3614.10, the rate adjustments are allocated proportionally based on the total annual hours of home health aide and other direct care services provided to Medicaid patients by certified home health agencies, long term home health care programs, AIDS home care and hospice programs, as reported in each such agency's most recently available cost report as submitted to the department; or, for the purpose of managed long term care programs, a suitable proxy developed by the department in consultation with the interested parties. Payments made pursuant to this section shall not be subject to subsequent adjustment or reconciliation.

In accordance with this statutory authority, your 2015 CHHA Medicaid rates have been determined to reimburse the appropriate agency-specific allocation of the total RT&R, based on the CHHA proportion of services to the total proportion of services for all of the eligible home care provider programs, as determined from Medicaid service utilization. The adjustments are based on a uniform allocation percentage add-on of 4.70% for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, for agencies which have submitted the required attestation form.

Appeals

An appeal by a provider whose rates have been changed by the Hotline process must be filed no later than 30 days after this letter is posted on the Health Commerce System. Appeals must be filed in an email submitted to the Bureau mail log at BLTCR-CH@health.ny.gov. The additional 30-day period applies only to agencies whose rates have been newly affected by Hotline changes.

In order to file an appeal with this office, the following information should be provided:

1. A scanned cover letter, signed by the Operator or Chief Executive Officer, containing a detailed summary of the items of appeal and the DCN of any revised cost report submission. Appeals will not be accepted from consultants or accountants.
2. Supporting schedules or any other pertinent data NOT related to the annual cost report may be attached in the email submission.
3. Any item of appeal that alters the cost data for the 2013 annual cost report requires that a revised report be filed electronically. The revised report must have a new Declaration Control Number and must be recertified by the operator and independent accountant, within the 30-day time frame.

To be considered timely filed, the above-mentioned requirements must be met and the appeal email submitted within the 30-day time frame indicated above. All other matters relating to the 2015 rates were subject to the April 15, 2015 deadline.

2014 Annual Cost Report

The Department expects to make available the 2014 cost report software on the Health Commerce System (HCS) website on or about June 1, 2015. The cost report will be due by **August 15, 2015.**

If you have any questions related to the methodology utilized in the calculation of your 2015 Medicaid rates or the accuracy of your rate, please contact Charles Tobey or Tim Casey at (518) 473-4421.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven M. Simmons".

Steven M. Simmons
Director
Bureau of Managed Long Term Care/FFS
Office of Health Insurance Programs

Attachments